

**Written Testimony of Representative Seth Moulton (MA-06)**  
**Make It in America: What's Next?**  
**PANEL 3: American Innovation**

Thank you, Congressman Hoyer, for hosting today's "Make it in America" panel. Economic development is the top priority for my district, and I appreciate the opportunity to be here today.

America's economy depends on innovation. Congress must take action to strengthen our innovation economy by helping businesses break down barriers, encouraging young people to take risks to start new companies, and creating a 21st century education system that prepares our children for the jobs of the future.

First, Congress ought to encourage innovation at every turn. In the past, a lightbulb manufacturer only had to make a lightbulb a few cents cheaper in order to succeed in the marketplace. In today's interconnected world, it's not just about making a cheaper lightbulb. We need our entrepreneurs, scientists and technologists finding out how to make the technology that **replaces** the lightbulb.

In Massachusetts, our economy is built on innovation. Just last week, I visited a biopharmaceutical startup called Akkrivis Technologies. One of the first biotech companies to locate in Salem, Akkrivis is creating life-saving innovations in the fight against cancer and has won two National Institutes of Health Small Business Innovation Research contracts.

Congress can help the next Akkrivis get off the ground by dramatically expanding funding for the NIH, strengthening the SBIR program, and investing in the basic scientific research that will unlock the next new innovation.

Second, Congress needs to promote entrepreneurship, especially among young people. The stark reality is that entrepreneurship in the U.S. fell 30% during the recession and hasn't recovered. In particular, young people aren't starting new businesses in part because they can't assume the risk inherent in starting a new venture. Many recent graduates are saddled with so much student loan debt that they simply can't afford to live in our nation's fastest growing cities, let alone quit their comfortable job to pursue a big idea. Congress needs to act to make college affordable so young people can get busy creating the Next Big Thing.

We often say that small businesses are the engine of our economy. That's not entirely true. While small businesses are critically important, **new** businesses account for nearly all net new job creation in this country. Agencies like the Small Business Administration ought to focus like a laser on helping these young businesses get off the ground. That's why I introduced legislation to modernize the SBA's Microloan program. This bill passed the House earlier this year, and we need to get it across the finish line in the Senate so that businesses like Prism Products in Lynn can access the capital needed to create jobs.

Lastly, Congress needs to help build a 21<sup>st</sup> century education system that prepares our students for the jobs of the future. We all know that a good education pays lifelong dividends by providing the skills necessary to earn a living wage and lead successful professional careers. However, we also know that the soaring cost of education is preventing too many Americans from pursuing an advanced degree or new job training. One solution to the challenge of college affordability is the America's College Promise Act, which I co-authored. This bill would provide two free years of community college to all qualified students, including the nearly 7,500 students at

North Shore Community College in the Sixth District. This long-term investment is good for our economy, for our students, and for our future.

Innovation will drive our future economic growth if Congress makes the right investments to support our new businesses, our young entrepreneurs, and our students. We can do it. We can “Make it in America” again. Thank you again to Congressman Hoyer for hosting today’s event.